

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (original) A blast protection system for protecting an asset from a blast force, the system comprising:

a shaft;

a plurality of plates mounted on the shaft;

a panel attached to a first plate of the plurality of plates and for receiving the blast force and transmitting a portion of the blast force to the first plate; and

a base attached to a second plate of the plurality of the plates and for receiving a portion of the force transmitted to the first plate by the panel,

wherein the force received by the base is less than the blast force.

Claim 2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plates have a concave side and a convex side.

Claim 3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the plates are disks.

Claim 4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plates are Belleville springs.

Claim 5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is for placing between the blast force and the asset.

Claim 6. (original)     A method of protecting an asset from a blast force, the method comprising:

                         receiving the blast force with a panel;

                         transmitting a portion of the blast force from the panel to a first plate of a plurality of plates, the plurality of plates being mounted on a shaft; and

                         transmitting a portion of the force transmitted to the first plate to a base attached to a second plate of the plurality of the plates,

                         wherein the force transmitted to the base is less than the blast force.

Claim 7. (previously presented)     The method of claim 6, wherein at least one of the plurality of plates slides on the shaft when the portion of the force transmitted to the first plate is transmitted to the base.

Claim 8. (previously presented)     The method of claim 7, wherein a majority of the plurality of plates slide on the shaft when the portion of the force transmitted to the first plate is transmitted to the base.

Claim 9. (previously presented)     The method of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of plates are prestressed against each other before being subjected to the blast force.

Claim 10. (previously presented)     The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of plates is slidably mounted on the shaft.

Claim 11. (previously presented)      The system of claim 10, wherein a majority of the plurality of plates are slidably mounted on the shaft.

Claim 12. (previously presented)      The system of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of plates are prestressed against each other.

Claim 13. (new)      The system of claim 1, wherein the panel is sized and shaped to deflect substantially all of the blast force either around the asset or through the system.

Claim 14. (new)      The system of claim 6, wherein the panel is sized and shaped to deflect substantially all of the blast force either around the asset or through the system.